

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /050 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY;DH
APPROVED BY AF - AMB. BOLEN
AF/S:DKEOGH
AF/I:WLEWIS (INFO)
AFR/ESA:OCYLKE (INFO)
-----100339Z 009506 /66

P R 092158Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133844

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, LT, US

SUBJECT: US ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. AMBASSADOR MAKEKA OF LESOTHO CALLED ON DEP ASS'T
SEC BOLEN ON JUNE 8 TO REVIEW US ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO,
US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON LESOTHO, US DIPLOMATIC REPRE-
SENTATION IN LESOTHO, PROBLEMS IN THE OAU, LESOTHO/SOUTH
AFRICAN RELATIONS AND US AFRICAN POLICY.

2. AMB. BOLEN EXPLAINED BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATUS
OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE INCREASED
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN FY
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78. HE NOTED THAT CONGRESS IS IN PROCESS OF RECONCILING
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SENATE VERSION OF BILL AUTHORIZING
\$100 MILLION AND HOUSE VERSION AUTHORIZING \$135 MILLION,
WHILE DEPT IS SEEKING OMB CONCURRENCE ON FUNDING LEVEL
THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL SUPPORT. WHILE FINAL LEVEL OF
FUNDING IS UNCLEAR HE EXPLAINED THAT WE PLANNED \$5 MILLION
FOR ONGOING PROGRAMS, AND HOPED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL

CONTRIBUTION TO ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN LESOTHO AND TOKEN
CONTRIBUTION TO AIRPORT. 'AMB. MAKEKA THANKED AMB. BOLEN
FOR PLANNED CONTRIBUTION TO ROAD PROJECT AND INDICATED

GOL ONLY EXPECTS "TOKEN" US CONTRIBUTION TO AIRPORT. I.E.
\$2-3 MILLION.

3. FOOD AID. MAKEKA DISCUSSED EARLIER REQUEST FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO TO AMB. SEELYE AND SENATOR
CLARK FOR INCREASED PL-480 FOR LESOTHO. BASED ON
INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY MASERU, DEPT ADVISED SENATOR
CLARK NO ADDITIONAL FOOD WAS NEEDED, BUT THAT DISTRI-
BUTION AND STORAGE SYSTEM IN LESOTHO REQUIRED IMPROVE-
MENTS. MAKEKA RECOGNIZED PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTING AND
STORING FOOD IN LESOTHO, BUT MAINTAINED THAT INCREASED
FOOD AID IS NEEDED. INCREASED LEVEL IS REQUIRED TO
OFFSET ELIMINATION OF SUBSIDY ON SOUTH AFRICAN GRAIN
SOLD TO LESOTHO. GOL IS UNABLE TO ABSORB RAND 2.5
MILLION INCREASE IN COST OF GRAIN AND MUST PASS IT ON
TO CONSUMER. ACCORDING TO MAKEKA, GOL IS CONCERNED THAT
INCREASED GRAIN COST COULD LEAD TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
UNREST IN LESOTHO. HE SAID GOL WOULD PROVIDE AMEMBASSY
MASERU WITH DETAILS OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.

4. US REPRESENTATION IN LESOTHO. MAKEKA RAISED PERENNIAL
GOL REQUEST TO HAVE US AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN MASERU.
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AMB. BOLEN REPLIED THAT WE HAVE THE MATTER UNDER STUDY.
HE NOTED CURRENT EFFORTS TO CUT BACK ON EXPENDITURES
FOR OPERATING MISSIONS ABROAD AND GAVE MAKEKA NO EN-
COURAGEMENT THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A STEP AT THIS
TIME.

5. OAU. AMB. MAKEKA SAID SOME OAU MEMBERS WERE
SUGGESTING POSTPONING OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE IN ORDER
TO AVOID FACING SHARP DIVISION OVER ISSUES SUCH AS
SPANISH SAHARA AND SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA.
MAKEKA FELT NO CONSENSUS COULD BE ACHIEVED ON THESE
ISSUES AND THAT ACrimonious DEBATE COULD WEAKEN THE
OAU. AMBASSADOR BOLEN NOTED THAT THE MASSIVE INFLOW OF
SOVIET WEAPONS AND CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS A
MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN TO A NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERN-
MENTS AND SHOULD BE AIDED.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. MAKEKA SAID GOL INITIALLY OBJECTED
TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON LESOTHO BECAUSE IT CONTAINED

INACCURATE OR MISLEADING INTERPRETATIONS OF SITUATION
IN LESOTHO. HE OFFERED TO PROVIDE US WITH CORRECTIONS
TO REVISE THE REPORT. MAKEKA NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT HAS PROMPTED DISCUSSION WITHIN LESOTHO ON HOW TO
CORRECT SOME OF PRESENT DEFICIENCIES. AMB. BOLEN: (A)
WELCOMED POSITIVE MOVES IN LESOTHO TO ADVANCE, HUMAN

RIGHTS, (B)EXPRESSED HOPE GOL OULD CONTINUE EFFORTS
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TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND (C) INDICATED WE
WOULD TAKE GOL VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION IN REVISING THE
HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

7. LESOTHO/SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS. MAKEKA SAID SOUTH
AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA VISITED MASERU ON JUNE 2
TO REVIEW SAG/GOL RELATIONS. MAKEKA DESCRIBED
DISCUSSIONS, WHICH COVERED APARTHEID, TRANSKEI, AND
TREATMENT OF BASOTHO IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS "FRANK AND
HEATED". TALKS WERE INCONCLUSIVE, BUT BOTH PARTIES
AGREED TO CONTINUE THEM AT LATER DATE.

8. U.S. AFRICAN POLICY. MAKEKA SAID AFRICAN STATES
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED INITIATIVES OF THE NEW ADMIN-
ISTRATION ON SEVERAL AFRICAN ISSUES AS WELL AS THE
FORWARD MOVEMENT ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. HE
SAID SOME AFRICAN STATES WERE GIVING CONSIDERATION TO A
RESOLUTION AT THE OAU SUMMIT TAKING NOTE OF THE NEW
U.S. POSTURE. AMBASSADOR BOLEN SAID SUCH A MOVE WOULD
BE VERY HELPFUL IN SUSTAINING GENERAL U.S. PUBLIC AND
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR AFRICAN INITIATIVES.
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